

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1430

FOR AMBASSADOR HINTON FROM AMBASSADOR STABLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, SP

SUBJECT: EC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

1. NO ONE WOULD GAINSAY EC VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES' POINT THAT SPANISH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE A DIFFICULT GAME. BUT AREILZA REPRESENTS THE LIBERALIZING FORCES IN SPAIN. AND JUST AS EUROPE REQUIRES PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN ORDER TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO SPAIN, SO THESE LIBERALIZING FORCES REQUIRE HELP FROM EUROPE TO SHOW AT HOME (AMONG OTHERS, TO THE SPANISH MILITARY AND THE RATHER CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT) THE
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INTERNATIONAL BENEFITS DEMOCRATIZATION WILL CONFER ON SPAIN.

THERE IS AN INDISPUTABLE TWO-WAY LINKAGE, A POINT THAT WAS MADE DURING THE COLLOQUY WHICH SOAMES KINDLY HELD WITH THE CONFEREES AT THE RECENT DCM/POL COUNSELORS CONFERENCE HELD AT US NATO.

2. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, SEEN FROM A THEORETICAL POINT OF VIEW, THERE ARE GENUINE ARGUMENTS BOTH PRO AND CON, INCLUDING THE ONE SOAMES MADE IN FAVOR OF LEGALIZATION. BUT THE FACT IS THAT REGARDLESS OF HOW ONE COMES DOWN ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE, IT IS MORE THAN THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR IN SPAIN AT THIS MOMENT AS SPANISH MILITARY LEADERS HAVE MADE REPEATELY CLEAR. AN EFFORT TO LEGALIZE THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE WHOLE PROCESS.

3. MOREOVER, IT IS CURIOUS THAT NO ONE DOUBTED THE GENUINENESS OF WEST GERMAN DEMOCRACY DURING THE LONG PERIOD WHEN THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS OUTLAWED THERE. THAT LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHOSE AFFINITIES FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ARE IN DOUBT TO SAY THE LEAST, SHOULD BE MADE THE LITMUS TEST FOR SPANISH DEMOCRATIZATION SEEMS SOMETHING OF AN ABSURDITY. THERE ARE OTHER TESTS, HAVING TO DO WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REPRESENTATIONAL SET OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND BASIC FREEDOMS, WHICH HAVE FUNDAMENTAL RELEVANCE.

4. IF THE DEPT HAS NO OBJECTION PERHAPS THESE POINTS MIGHT BE MADE TO SOAMES UPON THE NEXT APPROPRIATE OCCASION. AND THE DIALOGUE ON SPAIN WHICH YOU BEGAN WITH HIM WOULD SEEM TO BE A MOST USEFUL THING TO CONTINUE.
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